

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Population Growth**

\*184. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have conducted any study to find out the causes of failure of population control drive, despite planned programmes involving huge expenditure both by the Central and State Governments, besides NGOs and individuals;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) what effective steps are contemplated to ensure perceptible control of population growth as the country enters the 21st Century?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR):

(a) and (b) The results of the Sample Registration System reveal that the Birth Rate, in the country had declined to 26.5 in 1998 from 40.8 in 1951; the total Fertility Rate, which was 6.0 in 1951 declined to 3.3 in 1997 and the natural growth rate of population has come down to 1.75% during the year 1998. This decline in birth rate has been observed despite death rate declining more sharply and life expectancy at birth increasing almost to double since independence due to improved health services in the country.

Currently the population is growing rapidly due to: (i) large size of the population in the reproductive age group (estimated contribution 60%); (ii) higher fertility due to unmet needs to contraception (estimated contribution 20%); and (iii) high wanted fertility due to prevailing high infant mortality rate (estimated contribution about 20%).

(c) In order to speed up the efforts of population stabilization in the country, Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 in February 2000, which provides a holistic approach to the programme. It enumerates various Strategies and Action Plan to achieve immediate, medium and long-term objectives. The Policy

[4 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

lists national socio-demographic goals for 2010 leading to population stabilization by 2045.

**Revival of HFCL**

\*185. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have deferred their plan to shut down three units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) at Durgapur, Haldia and Barauni;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are considering a revival plan for these three units;
- (d) if so, the detail thereof; and
- (e) whether delay in re-starting is affecting the revival process?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) While a decision has already been taken by the Government to close/hive off the Haldia Fertilizer Project which could never be commissioned, a comprehensive rehabilitation proposal for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. based on unit wise techno-economic viability is under Government's consideration. The operations of Durgapur and Barauni units had to be suspended due to the high and unremunerative cost of production. The rehabilitation of these units is dependent on the decision of the Government and the final outcome of the proceedings pending before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction and as such these two units have been kept under preservation.

**Rail passes to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co.**

\*186. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of Ist and IInd Class journey card passes are being issued to M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. for travelling on all the Indian Railways;